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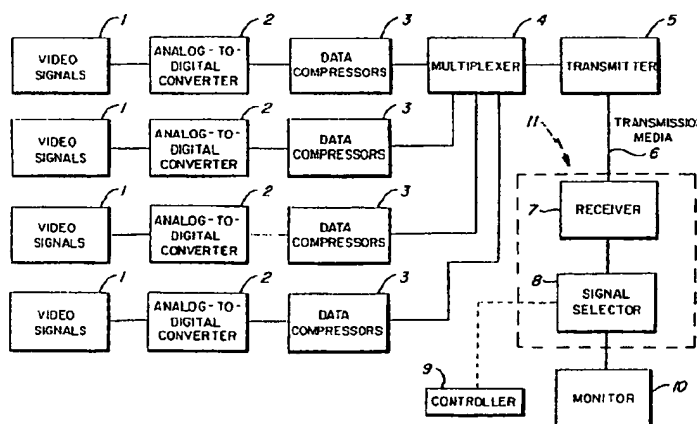
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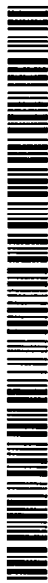
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: COMPRESSED DIGITAL-DATA SEAMLESS VIDEO SWITCHING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: An interactive cable television system is disclosed which utilizes a standard cable television distribution network for simultaneously providing a plurality of viewers with an interactive television program comprising a plurality of signals related in time and content. Video signals (1) are transmitted in a digital format, more than one signal being multiplexed onto a data stream on a single channel. The video signals (1) may be compressed for efficiency. A receiver (7), in conjunction with a signal selector (8), selects a particular NTSC channel for playback, then selects a particular video signal (1) from the data stream, and decompresses the video signal (1) for playback. Seamless switching between video signals (1) on different channels is provided. An alternative embodiment is disclosed wherein the various signals which comprise the interactive program are switched at the head end rather than at the receiver. The multiple choice control unit selects a desired signal by relaying the multiple choice selections of the user through a relay box back to a remotely located switching station. The switching station routes the correct video signal down the appropriate cable channel for the particular user.



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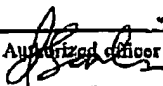


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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/26864

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER														
IPC(7) : H04N 7/10, 7/14 US CL : 348/12, 13, 6, 10; 455/5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC														
B. FIELDS SEARCHED														
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 348/12, 13, 6, 10; 455/5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3														
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched NONE														
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EAST - seamless, video, splice, switching, compression, MPEG														
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT														
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.												
Y	US 5,534,944 A (EGAWA et al) 09 July 1996, col. 2, lines 55-67, col. 3, lines 1-67, col. 4, lines 1-39, col. 5, lines 6-60	1-13, 17-44												
Y	US 5,610,661 A (BHATT) 11 March 1997, col. 1, lines 52-67, col. 2, lines 1-67, col. 7, lines 1-11	1-13, 17-44												
A	US 5,027,400 A (BAJI et al) 25 June 1991	1-44												
A	US 5,600,573 A (HENDRICKS et al) 04 February 1997	1-44												
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.														
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>* Special categories of cited documents:</td> <td>* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>* X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* P* earlier document published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>* Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>* &* document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>* F* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			* Special categories of cited documents:	* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	* A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	* X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	* P* earlier document published on or after the international filing date	* Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	* L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	* &* document member of the same patent family	* O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		* F* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer  ANDY FAILE Telephone No. (703) 305-4038												